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(b) The total number released during the months of May and June was 336. Of these, 144 were prematurely released before the expiry of their terms of imprisonment, including 7 who were released on tendering apologies. The remainder, namely 192, were released on the expiry of their terms of imprisonment in the ordinary course.

(c) The Government will continue to use their discretion in the matter.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are contemplating the release of the remaining political prisoners at an early date? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Not at an early date. In fact the Government are considering each case on its own merits."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I request the hon. the Law Member to consider the case of such of those prisoners, as for instance the members of the Sitanagaram Ashram, who have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonments of three years and so on, as early as possible? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I am afraid I cannot make any promise. I shall consider the suggestion."

Forests

Withdrawal of forest concessions in the South Kanara district.

* 73 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government or the Collector of South Kanara have received representations from the people of Kargal and other villages of Coondapoor taluk and from other villagers of other taluks regarding the cancellation by the Conservator of Forests, Madras, of the privileges enjoyed by the villagers of this district from time immemorial to remove firewood, manure leaves and other forest produce for their daily agricultural and domestic purposes from the reserve forests;

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place such representations on the table of the House as well as a copy of the proceedings of the Conservator of Forests cancelling the said privileges;

(c) whether it is a fact that when on a former occasion the forest authorities obstructed the villagers in the exercise of their privileges, the Government on the representation of the villagers recognized the said privileges and granted them the concessions of taking green manure leaves, dried leaves, thorn, brushwood and other forest produce from all trees except classified trees in the reserve forests of South Kanara;

(d) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of the said Government Order on the table of the House and state how the conditions have now changed; and

(e) why the Chief Conservator of Forests cancelled the said privileges?

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A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Copies [a] of the representations as well as a copy [a] of the proceedings of the Chief Conservator of Forests No. 560, dated 17th December 1930, on which the Conservator's proceedings are based are placed on the table.

(*c*) & (*d*) If the hon. Member could give more definite details about the representations made his request for further information and for the publication of the orders of Government on those representations will be considered.

(*e*) The concessions were withdrawn because they were much abused. They were granted on the specific condition that they would be withdrawn if they were abused.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know, Sir, why the Collector of South Kanara refused to grant interview to the petitioners and the landholders?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am afraid I cannot give an answer to that question, because I have had no communication from the Collector of South Kanara on that point."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether the administration of the forests was going on satisfactorily when the concessions were given and were in operation?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"They were working satisfactorily till recently; when the concessions were abused, they were stopped."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I request the hon. the Law Member to place on the table the report received from the Chief Conservator regarding the alleged abuse of these concessions?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I shall consider the suggestion. I cannot make a promise."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know what exactly was the nature of the abuses on the part of the villagers?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"They are very many. I shall just give an illustration. One of the concessions given was that people might remove dead fuel from the forests without any payment. They cut down green trees for the purpose of converting them into dead fuel. Again, the forest was set on fire by some of the graziers."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether an opportunity will be given to the villagers to prove how far they are innocent in the matter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Opportunities were given. A special notification stating that the people were at liberty to send in their representations to Government was published. The department waited to receive these representations. But they were not received in time."

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[a] Printed as Appendix III at pages 241–249 infra.

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Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" May I know whether there was any publication of this notification in the villages?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Yes, by tom-tom."

Prisons and Prisoners

Supply of buttermilk to prisoners in jails.

* 74 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether orders have been passed for the supply of buttermilk to the prisoners in jails;

(*b*) if so, whether it is in respect of political prisoners alone or to all the prisoners;

(*c*) whether a copy of such an order, if any, will be placed on the table;

(*d*) if orders have not been passed, at what stage the matter is and when final orders are likely to be passed; and

(*e*) whether there are proposals to supply ghee also to the prisoners, or to the political prisoners at least?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

(*d*) The question is under consideration.

(*e*) Ghee is already provided in the dietary of A and B class prisoners. There is no proposal to supply ghee to C class prisoners.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know how many years it will take for the Government to issue the orders regarding supply of buttermilk to the prisoners in view of the promise of the hon. the Law Member made on the floor of the House at the time of the Budget discussion?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" It will not take years. I want to expedite the matter. I have called for a detailed report from the Inspector-General of Prisons."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" I hope that this order will be issued before the last prisoner is released."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I hope so."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know at least how many months it may take, Sir?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I cannot say."

Land Revenue Administration

Balance of uncollected land revenue districtwar in the Presidency for fasli 1342.

* 75 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the uncollected balance of land revenue of fasli 1342 is in each district of this Presidency;